
Register of the John G. Wright Papers

Finding aid prepared by Dale Reed

Hoover Institution Archives

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Title: John G. Wright papers

Date (inclusive): 1933-1977

Collection Number: 92033

Contributing Institution: Hoover Institution Archives

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 9 manuscript boxes(3.6 linear feet)

Abstract: Speeches and writings, correspondence, resolutions, theses, and notes, relating to Marxian theory, the translation of works of Leon Trotsky, Trotskyist activities in the United States and abroad, and analysis of the post-World War II Chinese and Eastern European states.

Creator: Wright, John G., 1902-1956.

Access

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], John G. Wright papers, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.

Acquisition Information

Acquired by the Hoover Institution Archives in 1992.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at <http://searchworks.stanford.edu/>. Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

1902 Born as Joseph Vanzler in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in the Russian Empire

circa 1914 Emigrated to the United States

circa 1920 Graduated from Harvard University. Became a professional chemist

1933 Joined the Communist League of America (subsequently Socialist Workers Party)

1933-1940 Literary collaborator and translator of Leon Trotsky

1939-1956 Member, National Committee, Socialist Workers Party

1956 Died in New York City

Scope and Content Note

John G. Wright (the political and pen name of Joseph Vanzler) was a leader of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States from the 1930s to the 1950s. Wright was heavily involved with theoretical, journalistic and publishing-house work of the party. A polyglot, he translated texts from various languages into English for publication. His collaborative work with Leon Trotsky was of particular significance. Wright translated many of Trotsky's writings into English for the first time.

During Trotsky's period of residence in Mexico at the end of his life (1937-1940), Wright, in New York City, corresponded with him regularly and, having access to major American academic libraries, provided him with Russian-language research materials to support his writing projects, especially his biography of Joseph Stalin. The papers thus shed light on Trotsky's literary activities and on the publishing history of [Stalin](#). Post-World War II materials in the collection also document debates within the Trotskyist movement on analysis of the Chinese and Eastern European states, and the internal struggle within the Socialist Workers Party involving the faction led by Bert Cochran and George Clarke.

The John G. Wright Papers were formerly housed at the Library of Social History in New York City. The Hoover Institution Archives acquired them in 1992.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Fourth International.

Socialist Workers Party.

Trotsky, Leon, 1879-1940.

China.

Communism--United States.
Communism.
Europe, Eastern.
United States--Politics and government.

Biographical File, 1956-1977

Scope and Contents note

Obituaries, tributes, lists, and material for projected memorial volume.

Box/Folder 1 : 1

Obituaries and memorial tributes, 1956

Scope and Contents note

Includes tributes by James P. Cannon, George Novack and Morris Stein.

Box/Folder 1 : 2

Lists of papers and books, 1933-1997, undated

Scope and Contents note

Includes list of selected Socialist Workers Party records.

Box/Folder 1 : 3

Projected Pathfinder Press memorial volume, 1977

Scope and Contents note

Draft table of contents, draft introductory matter, and working materials.

Correspondence File, 1934-1956

Scope and Contents note

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent. Includes some letters by third parties. Editorial correspondence of Bert Cochran from 1945 to 1947 is interfiled with that of Wright. Wright and Cochran shared editorial duties on *The Fourth International* during this period.

Box/Folder 1 : 4

General, 1943-1955

Box/Folder 1 : 5

Baghavan, R.S. (Ceylon), 1948-1954

Box/Folder 1 : 6

Bartell, Mike, 1945-1947

Box/Folder 1 : 7

Birchman, Robert L., 1945

Box/Folder 1 : 8

Braden, Mark, 1945

Box/Folder 1 : 9

Breitman, George, 1943-1955

Box/Folder 1 : 10

Canfield, Cass (Harper and Brothers; re Leon Trotsky manuscripts), 1937

Box/Folder 1 : 11

Cannon, James P., 1944-1954

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Carlson, Grace, 1943-1947

Box/Folder 1 : 13

Chester, Bob, 1945-1955

Box/Folder 1 : 14

Clarke, George, 1945

Scope and Contents note

Includes 1953 memorandum about Clarke.

Box/Folder 1 : 15

Cochran, Bert, 1945-1946

Scope and Contents note

Includes 1953 resolutions of Cochran-Clarke faction.

Box/Folder 1 : 16

Copeland, Vince, 1944-1946

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Cornell, Charles, 1946

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Creel, Warren, 1944-1947

Box/Folder 1 : 19

Curtiss, Charles, 1945-1948

Scope and Contents note

Includes 1939 note from Lillian Curtiss in Coyoacán.

Box/Folder 1 : 20	Davenport, William, 1945-1946
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	Scope and Contents note
	Includes press releases and letters of protest re beating of Dollinger.
Box/Folder 1 : 23	Dowson, Ross (Canada), 1946
Box/Folder 1 : 24	Dunayevskaya, Raya, 1937-1948
	Scope and Contents note
	Includes letters from Coyoacán.
Box/Folder 1 : 25	Dunne, Vincent Raymond, 1945
Box/Folder 1 : 26	Forkosch, Morris D. (re Trotsky heirs), 1941
Box/Folder 1 : 27	Frank, Pierre (France), 1945
Box/Folder 1 : 28	Frankel, Jan (Coyoacán), 1937
Box/Folder 2 : 1	Geldman, Max, 1945-1952
Box/Folder 2 : 2	Geller, Jules, 1944-1951
Box/Folder 2 : 3	Glass, Frank, 1944-1945
Box/Folder 2 : 4	Goldman, Albert (re Trotsky manuscripts), 1941-1945
Box/Folder 2 : 5	Gordon, Eloise, 1944-1947
Box/Folder 2 : 6	Gordon, Sam, 1945-1948
Box/Folder 2 : 7	Hansen, Reba, 1945
Box/Folder 2 : 8	Haston, Jock (Great Britain), 1946
Box/Folder 2 : 9	Healy, Gerry (Great Britain), 1952-1953
Box/Folder 2 : 10	Karsner, Rose, 1951
Box/Folder 2 : 11	Keemer, Edgar, 1944-1945
Box/Folder 2 : 12	Kitt, Bill, 1944-1945
Box/Folder 2 : 13	Konikow, Antoinette (mother-in-law of Wright), 1934-1946
Box/Folder 2 : 14	Kovalesky, Theodore, 1943-1947
Box/Folder 2 : 15	Lee, Grace, 1947
Box/Folder 2 : 16	Leinwand, Rose (sister of Wright), 1943-1945
Box/Folder 2 : 17	Liberty (re Trotsky manuscripts), 1938
Box/Folder 2 : 18	Malamuth, Charles (re Trotsky manuscripts), 1938-1940
Box/Folder 2 : 19	Mandel, Ernest (Belgium), 1945-1953
Box/Folder 2 : 20	Marcy, Sam, 1956
Box/Folder 2 : 21	Mei, Lei Dar (re China), 1955
Box/Folder 2 : 22	Moreno, Nahuel (Argentina), 1955
Box/Folder 2 : 23	Morrow, Felix, 1943
Box/Folder 2 : 24	Murphy, Patrick, 1944
Box/Folder 2 : 25	<i>New International</i> (re Trotsky manuscripts), 1939
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Box/Folder 2 : 27	O'Brien, Vaughan T. (Coyoacán), 1938-1939
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Box/Folder 2 : 30	Pablo, Michel (France), 1948
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Box/Folder 2 : 32	Rubinstein, Moisei (Mexico), 1936
Box/Folder 2 : 33	Saettone, Ruben (re Argentina), 1945
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Box/Folder 2 : 36	Stein, Morris and Sylvia, 1943-1948
Box/Folder 2 : 37	Swabeck, Arne, 1942-1955
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Box/Folder 2 : 39	Trainor, Larry and Augusta, 1944-1947
Box/Folder 2 : 40	Trotskaia, Nataliia Sedova, 1945
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- Box/Folder 2 : 42 **Van Heijenoort, Jean, 1937-1946**
 Scope and Contents note
 Includes letters from Coyoacán.
- Box/Folder 2 : 43 **Vanzler, Edith (first wife of Wright), 1945**
Box/Folder 2 : 44 **Vanzler, Tyl (son of Wright), 1945-1953**
Box/Folder 2 : 45 **Walker, Charles R. (re Trotsky manuscripts), 1937**
Box/Folder 2 : 46 **Weber, Sara (Coyoacán), 1937-1938**
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Box/Folder 2 : 48 **Weiss, Myra Tanner, 1944**
Box/Folder 2 : 49 **Wild, Mr. (Great Britain; re Trotsky manuscripts), 1937**
Box/Folder 2 : 50 **Wolfe, Bernard (Coyoacán), 1937**
Box/Folder 2 : 51 **Wolfe, Bertram D., 1941**
Speeches and Writings, 1933-1956
 Scope and Contents note
 Arranged chronologically.
- Box/Folder 3 : 1 **"American Perspectives," circa 1933**
Box/Folder 3 : 2 **"A Few Facts" [re France], 1934**
Box/Folder 3 : 3 **"Proposed Theses on the Role and Nature of the Revolutionary Party," 1934**
Box/Folder 3 : 4 **Untitled speech re Paterson, New Jersey, textile strike, 1934**
 Scope and Contents note
 Notes and working materials.
- Box/Folder 3 : 5 **"The Bolshevik-Leninists in the SFIO" and La Vérité, 1935**
Box/Folder 3 : 6 **Untitled debate with Sidney Hook re Marxism, circa 1935**
 Scope and Contents note
 Notes and working materials.
- Box/Folder 3 : 7 **Letter to the editor, *New International*, re Sidney Hook, 1935 March 25**
 Scope and Contents note
 Typescript and cover letter.
- Box/Folder 3 : 8 **"The Fate of a Marxist Classic," *The Accumulation of Capital*, 1935 July 8**
Box/Folder 3 : 9 **"Perspectives of the American Revolution," 1936**
Box/Folder 3 : 10 **Untitled speech re Moscow Trials, 1937 March**
 Scope and Contents note
 Notes and drafts.
- Box/Folder 3 : 11 **"Roosevelt Beats the War Drums," speech, 1937 November 12**
 Scope and Contents note
 Announcement, notes, drafts and working materials.
- Box/Folder 3 : 12 **The Truth about Kronstadt, 1938**
- Box/Folder 3 : 13 **Untitled speech re GPU murders and kidnappings, 1938**
 Scope and Contents note
 Notes, drafts and working materials.
- Box/Folder 3 : 14 **"The Ideological Captives of the Bourgeoisie," 1939 July 15**
Box/Folder 3 : 15 **"Shachtman and the Slippery Ice of Russian History," speech, 1939-1940**
 Scope and Contents note
 Notes and drafts.
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Book One

Box/Folder 3 : 17-18

Book Two

Box/Folder 3 : 19

Notes and drafts

Box/Folder 4 : 1

Edited typescript 1977

Box/Folder 4 : 2

Untitled speech re splits in Bolshevik history, 1940

Box/Folder 4 : 3

Untitled speech re situation in Soviet Union, 1940 December 26

Box/Folder 4 : 4

"What Are Russia's Chances?" [re German invasion], 1941 June

Box/Folder 4 : 5

Untitled speech re party organization, Socialist Workers Party convention, 1942

Box/Folder 4 : 6

Untitled speech, anniversary of founding of Second International, 1942 May 1

Box/Folder 4 : 7

Untitled speech, anniversary of death of Leon Trotsky, 1942 August

Box/Folder 4 : 8

Exchange of notes with other Socialist Workers Party leaders re revolutionary defeatism, 1942-1944

Box/Folder 4 : 9

Untitled speech, anniversary of death of V. I. Lenin, 1943 January

Box/Folder 4 : 10

Untitled speech, Socialist Workers Party National Committee plenum, 1943 October 31 - November 1

Box/Folder 4 : 11

"How Long Before the Revolution?" 1944

Box/Folder 4 : 12

Untitled speech re Germany, 1944

Box/Folder 4 : 13

Untitled speech, anniversary of Russian Revolution, 1944 November

Box/Folder 4 : 14

"The British Labor Victory: Its Meaning for the American Workers," national lecture tour, 1945 September - November

Box/Folder 4 : 15

"Stalin," speech re publication of Leon Trotsky's, 1946

Box/Folder 4 : 16

"Theses on the American Revolution," 1946

Box/Folder 4 : 17

Untitled writing re Soviet Union, 1947

Box/Folder 4 : 18

Untitled speech re war and depression, 1947

Box/Folder 4 : 19

"The Twin Evils: War and Depression," May Day speech, 1947 May 3

Box/Folder 4 : 20

Untitled remarks, educational meeting re British Labour Party, 1947 September 18

Box/Folder 4 : 21

Untitled writing re Yugoslavia, 1948

Box/Folder 4 : 22

"The Soviet Union Today," speech, 1949

Box/Folder 4 : 23

Untitled speech re devaluation, 1949 October 6

Box/Folder 4 : 24

Untitled speech, anniversary of Russian Revolution, 1949 November

Box/Folder 4 : 25

Untitled speech re Yugoslavia, Socialist Workers Party convention, 1950

Box/Folder 4 : 26

Untitled speech re Eastern Europe, Socialist Workers Party National Committee plenum, 1950 February

Box/Folder 4 : 27

Review of Benjamin I. Schwartz, "Chinese Communism and the Rise of Mao," circa 1951

Box/Folder 4 : 28

Untitled remarks, unidentified meeting, 1951 January

Box/Folder 4 : 29

"The Colonial Revolution: Greatest Event of Our Time," speech, 1951 November 30

Box/Folder 5 : 1

Foreword and notes to Leon Trotsky, "The First Five Years of the Communist International," Volume II, 1953

Box/Folder 5 : 2

Untitled speech in opposition to Cochran-Clarke faction, 1953

Box/Folder 5 : 3

"Stalin and Stalinism," speech, 1953 April 17

Box/Folder 5 : 4

"Cochranite Level of Discussion: Mechanical Thinking Plus Sophistry Plus Slander," speech, 1953 May 3

Box/Folder 5 : 5

Untitled remarks re Cochran-Clarke faction, Socialist Workers Party National Committee plenum, 1953 May 28

Box/Folder 5 : 6

"Djilas Case," 1954

Box/Folder 5 : 7

Untitled May Day speech, 1954 May 1

Box/Folder 5 : 8

Untitled writing re Hu Feng purge in China, 1955

Box/Folder 5 : 9

"Preliminary Notes on Automation," 1955 January 3

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Untitled resolution on colonialism, 1955 June 29

Box/Folder 5 : 11

"The Soviet Union Today," draft resolution, 1955 August 12

Box/Folder 5 : 12

"Draft Amendment on the Third Chinese Revolution" [with Farrell Dobbs and Morris Stein], 1955 September 13

Box/Folder 5 : 13

Untitled writing re 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, 1956

"ABC of Marxism," International Workers School lecture series, (repeated for many years), undated

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General

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Dialectics

Box/Folder 6 : 1

Historical materialism

Box/Folder 6 : 2

Marxian economics

Box/Folder 6 : 3

"Bolshevik Traditions (Intra-Party Conduct)," undated

Box/Folder 6 : 4

"The Collapse of the Second International," undated

Box/Folder 6 : 5

"Documents for the History of the Comintern," undated

Box/Folder 6 : 6

"Kamo: The Story of a Worker-Bolshevik," undated

Box/Folder 6 : 7

"Marxism and the Law," undated

Box/Folder 6 : 8

"Marxist Approach to Slogans," undated

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"Material Base of Thought," undated

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"On the USSR Theses," undated

Box/Folder 6 : 11

"The Proletarian Viewpoint," undated

Box/Folder 7 : 1

Untitled writing re American history, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 2

Untitled writing re antisemitism, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 3

Untitled writing re atomic energy, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 4

Untitled writing re Nikolai Bukharin, undated

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Untitled writing re China, undated

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Untitled writing re Communist International 1st Congress, undated

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Untitled writing re Darwinism, undated

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Untitled writing re fascism, undated

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Untitled writing re Ludwig Feuerbach, undated

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Untitled writing re Karl Kautsky, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 11

Untitled writing re John Maynard Keynes, undated

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Untitled writing re V. I. Lenin, undated

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Untitled writing re Lovestoneites, undated

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Untitled writing re Vaclav Machajski, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 15

Untitled writing re Russian Revolution, undated

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Untitled writing re Iakov Sverdlov, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 17

Untitled writing re Leo Tolstoy, undated

Box/Folder 7 : 18

Untitled miscellaneous writings, undated

Writings by Others, 1933-1955

Scope and Contents note

Arranged alphabetically by author. Includes manuscripts translated and/or edited for publication by Wright.

Box/Folder 8 : 1

Cannon, James P., "The Struggle for a Proletarian Party." Socialist Workers Party, *Internal Bulletin*, 1940 April

Box/Folder 8 : 2

Commission of Inquiry into the Charges Made Against Leon Trotsky in the Moscow Trials. The Case of Leon Trotsky, 1937

Box/Folder 8 : 3

Dewey, Frank. "Rudolf Hilferding," undated

Box/Folder 8 : 4

Dobbs, Farrell, Morris Stein, and Joseph Hansen. "Statement on the Internal Party Situation," 1953

Fischer, Oscar

Box/Folder 8 : 5

"Die Stalinisten erinnern sich an Thälmann: Warum hat Stalin nicht geholfen?" 1939-1940

Box/Folder 8 : 6

"Verfall und Aufstieg: Wanderer ins Nichts," circa 1941

Box/Folder 8 : 7

International Communist League. "War and the Fourth International," 1934

Scope and Contents note

Drafted by Leon Trotsky. Printed copy with editorial annotations and notes by Wright.

Box/Folder 8 : 8

Johre. Untitled writing re Thomas Mann, undated

Scope and Contents note

Typescript (in English) edited and likely translated by Wright.

Box/Folder 8 : 9

Kim, Chang Sei. Untitled memoirs of a Korean physician, undated

Box/Folder 8 : 10

Meyer, F. "Antwort auf die Anmerkungen Gen. Yalts," undated

Scope and Contents note

Includes a holograph.

Box/Folder 8 : 11

Morrow, Felix. "The Myth of French Democracy," circa 1940

Munis, Grandizo

Box/Folder 8 : 12

"Una internacional contra el internacionalismo," 1941 February

Box/Folder 8 : 13

"The Stagnation of Political Centrism," undated

Box/Folder 8 : 14

O'Rourke, Walter. Untitled writing re Mexico, 1941 June 8

Box/Folder 8 : 15

Parti Communiste Internationaliste [France]. "The Conception of the Party," circa 1945

Box/Folder 8 : 16

Peng, Shu-tse. "The Third Chinese Revolution and Its Perspective," 1954 December 1

**Plekhanov, Georgii. "Belinsky and Rational Reality," *Fourth International*, 1955
Spring**

Box/Folder 8 : 17

Typescript translated by Wright

Box/Folder 8 : 18

Notes and working materials for translation

Box/Folder 8 : 19

Printed copy

Box/Folder 8 : 20

R. "Theses on the Crisis of Stalinist Bonapartism," 1941 January 31

Box/Folder 8 : 21

Revolutionary Communist Party [China]. "The Founding Convention of the Revolutionary Communist Party of China," 1948 September 10

Box/Folder 8 : 22

Rizzi, Bruno. "La bureaucratisation du monde," 1939

Box/Folder 8 : 23

Sternberg, Fritz. "Draft of the Economic Part of the Program of the Fourth International," undated

Trotsky, Leon

Box/Folder 9 : 1

"Will Japan Commit Suicide?" *Liberty*, 1933 November 18

Box/Folder 9 : 2

"Politics in the Reichstag Trial," *New Republic*, 1934 January 3

Box/Folder 9 : 3

"If America Should Go Communist," *Liberty*, 1935 March 23

Box/Folder 9 : 4

"How Should the Bolshevik-Leninists Act in Spain? Letter to a Spanish Comrade," 1936 April 12

Box/Folder 9 : 5

"Revolutionary Interlude in France," *Nation*, 1936 August 8

Box/Folder 9 : 6

Transcript of answers to American comrades, 1937

Box/Folder 9 : 7

"Did Stalin Poison Lenin?" *Liberty*, 1940 August 10

***Stalin*, 1941**

Box/Folder 9 : 8

Working materials provided by Wright

Box/Folder 9 : 9

Memoranda by Wright, Charles Malamuth and Jean van Heijenoort re editorial changes to text made by Malamuth

Box/Folder 9 : 10

Miscellaneous writings.

Box/Folder 9 : 11

Wollenberg, Erich. "The Red Army," 1938

Unidentified writers

Box/Folder 9 : 12

"La montée révolutionnaire atteint l'URSS," 1953

Box/Folder 9 : 13

"Report on Yugoslavia," 1950 May

Box/Folder 9 : 14

"Zwei Kamenews, zwei Lebenswege," undated

Box/Folder 9 : 15

Untitled writing re Palestine, undated

Scope and Contents note

Includes a holograph (in German).

Box/Folder 9 : 16

Untitled series of writings on women and socialism, undated

Miscellany, 1941-1953

Scope and Contents note

Printed matter and artwork.

Box/Folder 9 : 17

Leaflets, cards, and style sheet, undated

Box/Folder 9 : 18

Printed matter. Issues of *Les cahiers de l'économie soviétique* and clippings, 1941-1953

Box/Folder 9 : 19

Artwork for press, undated